

News

Macomb County
Office of Public Affairs



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News Nuggets – Macomb County News Highlights

Macomb County endorses Asian carp barrier

The Macomb County Board of Commissioners called on the U.S. Congress to approve the full funding necessary to complete and maintain a barrier in the Illinois River to keep foreign species of fish from invading and spoiling Great Lakes waters.

Although a temporary electrical barrier to keep Asian carp from entering Lake Michigan is being operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, not enough money has been appropriated to finish a second permanent barrier, according to a resolution approved by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners on Thursday, Sept. 21.

The County Board also asked Congress to approve funds to renovate the existing temporary barrier as a backup to a new barrier.

Asian carp have been migrating toward the Great Lakes since they escaped from a fish farm in Arkansas in the 1980s. The County Board said the Asian carp are a serious threat to the Great Lakes' \$4 billion commercial and recreational fishery and have proven to be an injury risk to boaters.

Board approves \$25,000 to fight lake weeds in Harrison Township

The Macomb County Board of Commissioners voted Thursday, Sept. 21, to give \$25,000 in emergency environmental funds to Harrison Township to fight lake weeds clogging local shorelines.

Township officials had requested \$40,000 in clean-up grant money from the Macomb County Lake/River Clean-up Fund, but all grants for 2006 had been issued. Commissioner Dana Camphous-Peterson (D-Harrison Township) pushed to have the project considered under emergency provisions of the Lake/River Fund.

Requests for emergency environmental funds are limited to \$25,000

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Drinking water monitoring moves forward

A new initiative for real-time monitoring of Macomb County's drinking water supply got a push Thursday, Sept. 21, when the county Board of Commissioners selected the project manager and approved the purchase of equipment for the system.

Environmental Consulting and Technology Inc. was awarded a \$589,649 contract to manage the system, and the board approved the purchase of \$566,975 worth of equipment.

The water monitoring project was made possible by a \$962,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Another \$290,000 in matching funds are coming from Macomb and St. Clair counties and the nine water treatment facilities that receive equipment.

The project will establish a system of sophisticated laboratory and data management equipment in water treatment plants in the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair, from Port Huron to Detroit. Drinking water will be automatically sampled and analyzed every 15 to 30 minutes around the clock. Results of the analyses will be sent to a computer, which will compare the results to water quality standards. If contamination is detected, the computer will automatically notify plant operators.

Board votes to increase depleted Veteran's Relief Fund

The Macomb County Board voted Thursday, Sept. 21, to add \$7,500 to the 2006 Veteran's Services budget to maintain the Veterans Relief Fund.

An increase in veterans' needs has strained the \$12,000 allocated for the fund, which was expected run out before the end of the year.

The Veteran's Relief Fund provides monetary help to veterans who have trouble paying rent, mortgage, utility bills or other similar costs.

Three reappointed to Macomb County Historical Commission

Ray Glime of Clinton Township, Don Green of Clinton Township and Marian Lynch of Macomb Township were reappointed to three-year terms on the Macomb County Historical Commission.

The appointments were confirmed by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners at its meeting Thursday, Sept. 21.

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The appointees' current terms expire Oct. 31. Their new terms will expire Oct. 31, 2009.

Glime is an attorney with a private practice, Green is a retired jewelry store owner and Lynch is a retired planner for the City of Livonia.

Board OKs participation agreement for wireless project

The Macomb County Board of Commissioners approved the "Master Participation Agreement" for the Wireless Macomb Project. This contract provides the legal guidelines for the county and its local governments to participate in the project.

Approved by the board Thursday, Sept. 21, the agreement will be offered to all cities in Macomb County who wish to participate in the Wireless Macomb Project to bring free wireless internet access to county residents.

Under the agreement, the county's wireless service provider would be responsible for installation, maintenance and any costs of equipment and services. Host communities are required to provide a place to mount wireless transmitters and waive any fees associated with the installation and operation of the equipment.

Features expected to be requested in the RFP include online services allowing jurors to select, postpone or reschedule a date of service, and a bar-coded juror nametag system to improve the flow of jurors between the jury room and courtrooms, and track information such as excusals and postponements.

Four nominated for Local Emergency Planning Committee

The Macomb County Board of Commissioners on Thursday, Sept. 21, nominated four people as members of the Local Emergency Planning Committee, which is responsible for preparing response plans for various public emergencies.

Nominated by the board were Nicole Miller, emergency manager for Sterling Heights; Steve Kovalcik, operations chief for the Sterling Heights Fire Department; Lt. Dan Kolke, commander of the Fraser Department of Public Safety's Fire Division; and Steve Sherrard, emergency preparedness manager for St. Joseph Healthcare.

Miller will represent emergency managers on the committee, Kovalcik and Kolke fire departments and Sherrard hospitals. Final appointment is made by the State Emergency Response Commission.

County looks to improve jury system

Macomb County's jury system is about to get an upgrade that promises to increase efficiency and convenience for county residents and Clerk's Office employees.

The Macomb County Board of Commissioners approved issuing of a request for proposals for a new jury system that will use Internet and interactive voice technology to streamline the jury process.

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